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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00
NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 SY-05 SYE-00 A-02 MCT-02
SMS-01 SAA-01 SES-01 /073 W

O R 220645Z FEB 79
FM AMEMBASSY KABUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2379
INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 KABUL 1366

E.O. 12065: XGDS-4 2-21-89 (AMSTUTZ, BRUCE J.) OR 5M

TAGS: ASEC, PINS, PEPR, AF, UR, US

SUBJECT: EXPERIENCES OF EMBASSY OFFICER JAMES E. TAYLOR AT THE
MINISTRY OF INTERIOR ON THE MORNING OF FEBRUARY 14

REF: KABUL 1098

1. (C - ENTIRE TEXT.)

2. WE WISH TO PRESENT IN ITS ENTIRETY THE STATEMENT WRITTEN
BY EMBASSY POLITICAL OFFICER JAMES E. TAYLOR, WHO WAS SENT TO
THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR LATE IN THE MORNING OF FEBRUARY 14,
IN AN EFFORT TO LEARN FROM AFGHANISTAN'S COMMANDANT OF POLICE,
SAYED DAOUD TAROON, WHAT HIS GOVERNMENT WAS PLANNING. MR. TAYLOR'S
STATEMENT IS IMPORTANT BECAUSE WE NOW HAVE EVIDENCE THAT
THE AFGHAN REACTION TO THE KIDNAPPING WAS BEING PLANNED IN TAROON'S
OFFICE, WHILE OUR REPRESENTATIVE WAITED OUTSIDE IN VAIN TO SEE
TAROON.

3. "AT ABOUT 11:15 A.M. ON FEBRUARY 14, MR. JAMES E. TAYLOR,
POLITICAL OFFICER, AND EMBASSY EMPLOYEE JALAL TALIBEE, ARRIVED
AT THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR. THEY ASKED TO SEE POLICE COMMANDANT
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SAYED DAOUD TAROON AND WERE ASKED TO WAIT IN TAROON'S OUTER OFFICE
BY HIS SECRETARY, FOR A FEW MINUTES. EARLIER IN THE MORNING, TAROON
HAD TOLD ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER BERNIE WOERZ THAT AN AMERICAN
OFFICER WAS WELCOME TO SIT IN TAROON'S OFFICE AND ACT AS A CONTACT
POINT FOR THE USG.

4. "AFTER ABOUT 30 MINUTES, MR. TAYLOR AGAIN ASKED THE SECRETARY
TO REMIND COMMANDANT TAROON THAT HE WAS WAITING TO SEE HIM. MR.
TAYLOR TOLD THE SECRETARY, A POLICE CAPTAIN, THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT
THAT THE U.S. EMBASSY REPRESENTATIVE SEE TAROON IN ORDER TO KNOW
WHAT THE AFGHAN GOVERNMENT WAS INTENDING TO DO. THE SECRETARY
CAME FROM TAROON'S OFFICE AND MR. TAYLOR WAS ASKED TO CONTINUE
WAITING.

5. "ABOUT 12:15 P.M. MR. TAYLOR CALLED THE EMBASSY TO TALK TO THE
DCM - MR. AMSTUTZ - BUT HE WAS ON THE PHONE TO WASHINGTON. MR.
TAYLOR LEFT THE MESSAGE THAT HE HAD NOT BEEN ALLOWED TO SEE
TAROON DESPITE SEVERAL REMINDERS TO TAROON THAT HE WAS WAITING AND

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY MAC DATE 3.20.81
RDS ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE _____
TS AUTH. _____ REASON(S) _____
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED ☐ RELASABLE ☒
RELEASE DENIED ☐
EXEMPTIONS _____

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THAT IT WAS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT TO THE USG TO KNOW WHAT THE AFGHAN GOVERNMENT WAS INTENDING TO DO.

6. "AT 12:30 P.M., STILL NOT HAVING BEEN ALLOWED TO SEE TAROON, MR. TAYLOR GAIN CALLED THE DCM TO ASK IF HE SHOULD REMAIN IN TAROON'S WAITING ROOM. THE DCM ADVISED MR. TAYLOR TO WAIT THERE FOR 30 MORE MINUTES, AND THAT MR. TAYLOR W'S TO INSIST THAT THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE BE PASSED TO TAROON: ABOVE ALL ELSE, THE U.S. GOVERNMENT DID NOT WANT ANY ACTION TAKEN BY THE AFGHAN GOVERNMENT WHICH WOULD ENDANGER THE WELFARE OF AMBASSADOR DUBS. THAT MESSAGE WAS GIVEN TO TAROON'S SECRETARY, WHO SUBSEQUENTLY CLAIMED THAT HE HAD PASSED IT TO TAROON.

7. "AT ABOUT 12:45 P.M., MR. TAYLOR CALLED THE EMBASSY AGAIN, SAYING THAT IN SPITE OF REPEATED REQUESTS, HE HAD STILL NOT BEEN

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ALLOWED TO SEE TAROON, AND WAS ADVISED BY THE DCM THAT THE FOREGOING MESSAGE SHOULD BE STRESSED AGAIN AND THAT THE EMBASSY HAD INFORMATION THAT THE AFGHAN AUTHORITIES WERE CONTEMPLATING ACTION WITHIN THE NEXT TWO MINUTES. MR. TAYLOR REITERATED THE U.S. POSITION TO TAROON'S SECRETARY, AND STRESSED THAT THAT POSITION HAD BEEN SPECIFICALLY DIRECTED BY SECRETARY VANCE. MR. TAYLOR ALSO EMPHASIZED THAT INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO THE EMBASSY INDICATED THAT SOME KIND OF FORCEFUL ACTION WAS IMMINENT AND INSISTED THAT ABSOLUTELY NOTHING SHOULD BE DONE THAT WOULD ENDANGER THE WELFARE OF THE AMBASSADOR. THE SECRETARY ENTERED TAROON'S OFFICE AND UPON EMERGING AT 12:50 SAID THE MESSAGE HAD BEEN GIVEN TO THE POLICE COMMANDANT. THE SECRETARY ADDED THAT "NOT ALL INFORMATION SHOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE, EVERYTHING IS UNDER CONTROL, AND TAROON IS BUSY WITH THE OPERATION AT THE HOTEL." HE CLAIMED THAT "ALL IS DESIGNED TO SECURE THE LIVES OF THE AMBASSADOR AND THE TERRORISTS."

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SMS-01 SAA-01 SES-01 /073 W

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O R 220645Z FEB 79

FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2380

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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8. "MR. TAYLOR IMMEDIATELY PHONED THE EMBASSY TO REPORT THAT APPARENTLY THE AFGHAN POLICE WERE ON THE VERGE OF SOME OVERT ACTION. TAYLOR TALKED TO MR. TURCO, WHO SAID THAT WHATEVER THE DRA WAS PLANNING HAD JUST HAPPENED. AT THAT POINT, WHILE MR. TAYLOR WAS ON THE PHONE WITH MR. TURCO, A RUSSIAN CIVILIAN EMERGED FROM TAROON'S OFFICE AND LEFT THE WAITING ROOM WHILE TAYLOR WAS THERE, SO HE MUST HAVE BEEN WITH TAROON DURING THE ENTIRE PERIOD TAYLOR WAS AT THE MINISTRY. ABOUT THREE MINUTES LATER, ANOTHER OFFICIAL ENTERED THE WAITING ROOM AND SAID TO THE SECRETARY THAT HE HAD HEARD SHOOTING AND THE SECRETARY INFORMED ALL OF THE POLICE STATIONS TO SEARCH THEIR AREAS FOR THE SOURCE OF THE SHOOTING.

9. "AT ABOUT 1:05 TAROON AND HIS BODY GUARD CAME OUT OF THE COMMANDANT'S OFFICE, AND TAROON SAID THAT IT WAS "ALL OVER, AND THAT THE AMBASSADOR WAS INJURED AND IN THE HOSPITAL." TAROON QUICKLY LEFT THE ROOM AND WENT DOWN TO THE MAIN EXIT OF THE BUILDING. MR. TAYLOR RUSHED AFTER HIM DOWN THE STEPS AND ASKED FOR FIVE SECONDS OF HIS TIME TO EXPLAIN WHAT MR. TAYLOR THOUGHT

OF TAROON'S BEHAVIOR AND HIS HANDLING OF THE WHOLE AFFAIR. TAROON REPLIED HE WAS "TOO BUSY" AND "DIDN'T HAVE TIME" TO TALK WITH MR. TAYLOR. TAROON, WITH HIS MACHINE GUN, DROVE OFF IN HIS

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MERCEDES.

10. "COMMENT: IT WAS BLATANTLY OBVIOUS THAT TAROON REFUSED TO

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HAVE ANY AMERICAN REPRESENTATIVE AWARE OF WHAT THE AFGHAN POLICE
WERE PREPARING TO DO, THAT HE DELIBERATEDLY DISREGARDED THE AMERICAN
POSITION, WHICH WAS REPORTEDLY MADE KNOWN TO HIM A NUMBER OF
TIMES, AND THAT AFTER THE INCIDENT, HE DID NOT WANT TO HEAR ANY
QUESTIONS OR STATEMENTS FROM AN AMERICAN REPRESENTATIVE. EQUALLY
CLEAR WAS THAT A CIVILIAN SOVIET ADVISOR WAS INTIMATELY INVOLVED
WITH THE AFGHAN POLICE PREPARATIONS IN TAROON'S OFFICE." END
STATEMENT.

AMSTUTZ

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